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Good Wishes for a Citizen in His Fighting Boots.

Referring again to Governor WILSON's stupendous speech at Staunton and to other recent utterances of his, there is this to be said:

Governor WILSON is not an officer of the Federal Government. The votes cast for him by the Presidential electors in their respective States have not yet been counted. The result has not been declared. Actually under the Constitution he is at present just as much a private citizen, in his relation to the Federal Government, as he was last summer or the summer before last or ten years ago. It is true that in the general expectancy of the course of events he figures as the next Chief Magistrate of the republic; but the fact is incontestable that his status is the same as that of the Rev. Dr. LYMAN ABBOTT or Mr. SAMUEL GOMPERS or of the professor of ethics in Princeton University when it comes to the teaching or preaching of his personal opinions concerning the philosophy of life or the duties of mankind in mankind's social organization.

This right of Dr. WILSON requires no defense. We hope that he will exercise it relentlessly between now and the second Wednesday in February—the day on which he will assume, providing that all goes well between now and then, a new responsibility to the American people with regard to considerate and deliberate utterance. Beginning with this morning there remain to him forty-four days, including Sundays and holidays. During these forty-four days it will be perfectly proper for Dr. WILSON, if he sees fit so to do, to deliver his mind of its contents of sublimated ethical philosophy, of exalted if nebulous sociologic thought, of poetic aspirations for the betterment of the human race, of vague but earnest yearning for the codification of a higher moral law to supersede the system of law which he will probably be called upon later to administer. We hope that Dr. WILSON will continue to talk at every opportunity, freely, unreservedly, voluminously. We hope that he will keep his "fighting boots" on for the next six weeks, and that neither of them will by any accident get into his mouth until he is sure that the disburdening process is complete and he is ready for the real business before him.

It would be a mistake, it seems to us, to extend this period of private and non-official license to the fourth of March. Between February 12, when the result of the vote for President is to be ascertained and declared by the Congress, and March 4, the date of his inauguration, the pitiless calendar provides only nineteen days. This is a time all too short for any new Executive, no matter how energetic and intelligent, to devote to the mastery of the constitutional and statutory provisions prescribing and limiting the functions of a President of the United States. That cannot be done with the fighting boots still in commission. The indispensable transition from the apostolic and transcendental spirit to that of the practical administrator at the threshold of a tremendous task must be effected in nineteen days.

Therefore, we say with all friendly wishes for the next President of the United States, heaven speed the super-ethical purgation!

The Petticoat Anabasis.

Bishop DOANE of Albany is seldom doubtful of his opinions and he always expresses them with heartiness and vigor. Sometimes he throws out with the same bluff determination and sharp edge of speech what looks mightily like a prejudice, a thing which perhaps none of us is without and which some of us like a man better for sticking to. For instance, this judgment ascribed to him on the heroines of the recent petticoat anabasis:

"The suffragists who made the pilgrimage from New York to Albany are a band of silly, excited and exaggerated women. Their sole aim in making the pilgrimage, as they are wont to call it, was the attraction of attention. The demonstration will not help their cause."

Mighty categorical and imperative is the good Bishop; and his not too amenable adherents are taken in the best of humor by the ladies whose feet have

called them forth. It is not the marching woman but the "cause" she marches for that is silly, excited, exaggerated in the Bishop's mind. If the object of General JONES's army was "the attraction of attention," can the Bishop deny that it succeeded? Millions of persons had woman suffrage as a fact, as a fact with humorous connotation, if you choose, hammered into them in the last two or three weeks.

Like it or lump it, bless or damn it, but don't be indifferent to it; that, if we understand it, is the desire of the woman suffragists. Abuse it, ridicule it all you want to. But think about it. Don't forget it. And how many hundreds of thousands it would have cost to advertise the movement "legitimately," if you want to put it in that way, a hundredth as much as the Rosalie Jones ambulances have advertised it. And how can the ambulation fail to help?

But it is so ridiculous, so infernally absurd for a pack, a handful of women and girls to march from New York to Albany. What good can it do woman suffrage?

How many of the questioning wagers of solemn chins and uplifters of scandalized noses at this "ridiculous" journey have themselves marched with protruding chest and majestic legs in political parades? How many of them tramped and sweat, carrying a torch magnificently called a "flambeau" but under any name smelling to heaven? What good did they do their party or candidate?

Ah, but woman mustn't imitate man; but she doesn't. If men's marching clubs dared to march in December, they would drink dry every saloon on the route. We have seen them keep the cold and pneumonia from their precious selves in November.

Georgia's Remarkable Protest.

The protest of the State of Georgia relative to the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing for the direct election of United States Senators will provoke discussion among students of the Constitution. Georgia's opposition to the proposed amendment is recorded in a report of the joint committee of the Legislature of the State. This report has been adopted by the General Assembly and signed by Governor BROWN and the authorities of both branches of the Legislature. Presented to the House of Representatives by Representative SEABORN ANDERSON RODDENBERRY of the Second district of Georgia, the protest denies the right of Congress to submit to the Legislatures of the States this amendment for ratification.

Georgia's opposition is based upon the old difference of opinion as to precisely what was meant by this clause in the Constitution providing for amendments to that instrument: "The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments." Georgia declares:

"The obvious prerequisite without which no number of States can impose any alteration in the frame of government on any one of them is this, that the first step for setting in motion the machinery of amendment shall be its proposal by two-thirds of each house of Congress. Unless two-thirds do so propose an amendment, it seems hardly open to question that no amendment is possible without a violation of the terms of the covenant."

"The only possibility of difference in this matter lies in the question whether the requisite two-thirds means two-thirds of those present in each house, or two-thirds of the entire membership of each. The language of the Constitution is 'two-thirds of both houses,' and it is at least certain that a literal construction of these words could not mean 'two-thirds of those present in each house,' or 'two-thirds of those present and voting in each house.'"

After a further presentation of the reasons for which the Georgia Legislature decided not to consider the proposed amendment the protest continues:

"The amendment proposed by the Congress and referred to this committee [the Joint Committee on Resolutions of the Georgia Legislature] did not receive two-thirds of each house and therefore was not proposed to the States in the manner pointed out by the Constitution for its own members."

Georgia's protest and rejection of the proposed amendment revives an old discussion. On May 11, 1898, Representative JOHN B. CORLISS of Michigan called up the joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution providing for the election of Senators of the United States. This resolution was adopted by a vote of yeas 184, nays 11, and Speaker REED announced that the joint resolution was passed, two-thirds having voted in favor thereof. The Speaker's ruling was determined by an old precedent of the House of Representatives declaring "the vote required on a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution is two-thirds of those voting, a quorum being present, and not two-thirds of the entire membership."

Representative EBERNEZER J. HILL of Connecticut called attention to the familiar clause of the Constitution: "The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or on the application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States shall call a convention for proposing amendments." Mr. HILL made the point of order that the vote required on Mr. CORLISS's motion was two-thirds of the entire membership and not two-thirds of a quorum. Thereupon Speaker REED, addressing the House, said:

"The question is one that has been so often decided that it seems hardly necessary to dwell upon it. The provision of the Constitution says 'two-thirds of both houses.' What constitutes a house? A quorum of the membership, a majority, one-half and one more. That is all that is necessary to constitute a house to do all the business that comes before the house. Among the business that comes before the house is the reconsideration of a bill which has been vetoed by the President, another is a proposed amendment to the Constitution, and the practice is uniform in both cases that if a quorum of the house is present the

house is constituted and two-thirds of those voting are sufficient in order to accomplish the object. It has nothing to do with the question of what States are present and represented, or what States are present and vote for it. It is the House of Representatives in this instance that vote and performs its part of the function. If the Senate does the same thing, then the matter is submitted to the States directly and they pass upon it. The first Congress, I think, had about sixty-five members, and the first amendment that was proposed to the Constitution was voted for by thirty-seven members, obviously not two-thirds of the entire house. So the question seems to have been met right on the very threshold of our Government and disposed of in that way."

The result of the vote on the Corlies resolution was then announced as above recorded.

The German Foreign Minister.

The death of Herr VON KIDDERLEN-WACHTER deprives Germany of a useful Foreign Minister of rather mediocre attainment at a critical moment in European affairs. The loss of MARSHALL VON BIEBERSTEIN a few months ago was a far more serious blow to German diplomacy, since VON BIEBERSTEIN was a commanding figure. The death of VON KIDDERLEN-WACHTER on the other hand deprives its chief importance from the accident of his position and the existence of a European crisis.

For three months in 1911 VON KIDDERLEN-WACHTER represented his country in a diplomatic duel with the French Ambassador at Berlin, one possible consequence of which was always a general European war. But it was not believed then or since that VON KIDDERLEN-WACHTER had any dominant influence in shaping the policy he defended. Nor has the result of that negotiation either in its immediate consequence, which was the establishment of the French protectorate over Morocco, or in its subsequent effects as revealed in the destruction of the Turkish military power been such as to earn praise for German diplomacy or for her Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Personally VON KIDDERLEN-WACHTER suffered from the fact that he was a "new man" and in a capital and in a public life where nobility was almost a prerequisite to diplomatic advancement. Yet Emperor WILLIAM, possibly with the deliberate purpose of combating this tradition, "took him up," his advancement was rapid; indeed so utterly was his rise out of proportion to his attainments that he was frequently regarded as the useful and approved agent of some more considerable figure in German public life.

His personal habits, his exaggerations in dress and phrase, his not infrequent offshoots against custom and even taste gave VON KIDDERLEN-WACHTER a dangerous attraction for the cartoonists and made him a shining target for the unfriendly European press. He affected a certain bluff, almost astounding, frankness, which contributed several striking episodes to the history of the Moroccan negotiations. Indeed, not infrequently he seemed to be the graduate of a school of "shirtless diplomacy" rather than the representative of any less obvious and more restrained diplomatic tradition.

The New Guardian of Labor.

However scientific in its terminology and comprehensive in its details the workingmen's protective legislation to be enacted as a result of the Wagner inquiry may be, its effectiveness will be measured by the character and ability of the man to whom Governor SULZER entrusts its enforcement. A spoils monger, a visionary or an impracticable crank at the head of the bureau will bring to nothing the wisest and most generous enactment that the Legislature can devise.

As Mr. SULZER owes not a little of his success in public life to his frequently asserted sympathy for men and women who earn with their hands the bread they eat, there is no danger of his selecting as the chief of the department a person opposed to the protection the State intends that these citizens shall have. But something more than pity for the poor and abused is needed. Executive ability of a high order, the power to enforce discipline, the gift of cool headedness are essential, and the ability to recognize at first glance the moments when silence would be appropriate is highly to be desired. A man or woman possessing these qualifications would carry out the will of the community with intelligence and promptly, to the satisfaction of all its people and the credit of its Governor.

Perhaps the ideal individual is not at hand. If that should be the case, Mr. SULZER can at least refrain from an appointment immediately objectionable to the citizenship of New York.

An Old Saying.

Amid these prophecies of a New Day, these humanitarian dreams, this horror of war paint and this blithe assumption by politicians of the moral guardianship of men of business, etc., it may be refreshing to remember an old adage in an old book: "Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off."

Is Mr. Bailey Ill?

Nearly a week has passed since the Hon. JOE BAILEY of Texas and the United States Senate announced January 2 as the date of his resignation from public office, and he has not yet withdrawn or modified his threat. This unnatural and unprecedented failure to revise or modify his unalterable plans has caused much uneasiness among his friends.

Is this man, only less famous for his resignations than for the withdrawal of his resignations, losing his resiliency? Has his old time vitality forsaken him? Has BAILEY lost his cunning, and has his fitness deserted him?

We hate to think that he has retrograded into commonplace. We tremble to think of a republic deprived of his support and services. We should

hate to see his gentle, tolerant and generous spirit extracted from the national life. And yet we face the new year sobered and alarmed by the thought that possibly one of JOE BAILEY's resignations is going to stick.

Temperate Criticism.

A distinguished religious and civic orator of this town complains that the officials of the present city administration are unwilling "to endure criticism, however temperate and justified and well meant."

"The distinguished religious and civic orator then makes a little temperate and justified and well meant criticism on his own hook. He says that Police Commissioner WALDO, judging him by his own words and works, is 'a menacingly incompetent and incorrigibly stupid creature.' Mayor GAYNOR has spoken 'a foul and false word,' relying upon 'the approval of what he imagines to be an equally coarse and vulgar electorate.'"

Surely neither Mayor GAYNOR nor any appointee of his is so supersensitive as to be unwilling to endure such gracious fault finding, such words of a friend as these.

A French journal proposes that the Balkan military campaign be named "the Thirty Days War," but in this case the peace negotiations may have to be called the Second Thirty Years War.

If President-elect WILSON really wanted advice, he has nothing to complain of.—Columbus Dispatch.

It is better to give than to receive.

That was a great stunt by the Macon jail prisoners—preferring Christmas turkey dinner to liberation from imprisonment. But they fell well in the Macon jail.—Augusta Chronicle.

Evidently Macon has answered the burning question: "How to Make Prison Life Attractive."

The ever faithful Indianapolis News favors us with two stanzas of the Hoosier Hymn sung by the Indiana girls at the woman's college in Jacksonville, Ill.: "Illinois may boast its cornfields, Athens of the West! What are Indiana products? Authors of the best."

"RILEY, WALLACE, ADE AND BEVERIDGE, MEREDITH NICHOLSON, STRATTON, PORTER AND MCCUTCHEON, ABE MARTIN, TARKINGTON."

It will be observed that the Grand Young Man is hugged in by the ears; that his superfluous feet spread all over the edge of the first line of the second stanza. The song has been doctored, either in Jacksonville or in Indianapolis. The original and correct reading is: "RILEY, WALLACE, ADE AND ELMORE." Why deface a public monument?

The older generation took delight in reading NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE's dramatic stories, but who reads them now? He is never mentioned.—New Orleans Picayune.

If this assertion be correct, so much the worse for the younger generation; but doubtless it would amuse HAWTHORNE if he could be as obscure fifty years after his death as he was for a long time in his life in those days when he had a certain pride in being the least known writer in the United States.

In the course of the garment makers' strike of 1910 it was frequently charged that the police played a part in the struggle that no legal definition of their duties as peace officers could possibly justify. During such disturbances the line of demarcation between maintaining order and assisting one side as against the other is frequently most difficult to draw.

Yet if it be borne in mind that strikers and those possessed by employers and their strike breakers, that obstruction of the public highways by any of them is not permissible and that the general public is entitled to the free use of the streets, the lengths to which the police should go would seem to be clear. The ordinary traffic of the city is entitled to complete protection from both sides in every dispute.

If I ever should have occasion to write about the Spanish war I should have to write very harshly of the high officers of the army and navy.—Columbus Dispatch.

The Lord forbid that the Colonel should write anything more about the Spanish war! Such criticisms of the brigade commanders in Cuba as he made in his address to the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston on Saturday came with an ill grace from him. Among those officers were CHAFFEE and HAWKINS; natural leaders and men who were brave to a fault. If they did not know how to set a squadron in the field certainly Theodore Roosevelt did not. He owed his lieutenant-colonelcy in the Rough Riders not to any reputation, learning or skill as a soldier, but to political influence. As a matter of fact, CHAFFEE, HAWKINS and other officers who might be named were competent enough for the business in hand.

When a man of their qualifications to do with the enemy in their front were inculcated superior to their critics. Whether the field training of the army in that day was adequate is another matter, but on that point Colonel Roosevelt is not an accepted authority.

When Is a Book Merchandise?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: After reading the new parcels post rules I am moved to inquire if a book cannot be printed matter and become merchandise. The rules say that printed matter must still be sent at the old rates, but merchandise may be sent at the new and reduced rates. Now if I buy half a dozen books and mail them to a friend they are printed matter and I pay postage accordingly. If on the other hand I am a publisher producing books as merchandise and sell half a dozen books to a customer should I not have the right to mail them as any other merchandise under the new rates? Should there not be a line drawn between printed matter as literature and printed matter as merchandise? NEW YORK, December 30.

The First Crime of Brutus.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Speaking of humor, may I venture the assertion that the supposed novelty in the prevailing style of syllabic joke is not new? By reference to an ancient Roman text it may be discovered that Brutus, previous to his killing J. Caesar, said in a chariot full of laughter: "Caesar a patriot? Why, friends and fellow Romans, it was Caesar who put 'con' in 'con'." Those who know what Caesar did after he crossed the Rubicon may verify this if they will. CLASSICUS, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, December 30.

A Poet's Masquerade.

That "frozen music" may be planned in "Grecian temples, gaily planned." This easy to conjecture. For merely cast your eyes around. And see the "frozen music" found in modern architecture. GEORGE B. MOSEBROOK.

A PERPETUAL CALENDAR.

Warnings Applicable to Any Year in Which They May Be Used.

January 1 will be a good day for dealers in remedies for headaches.

Fewer things will happen in 1913 than in 1912, because it will have one less day. Somebody will get his name in the newspapers by declaring that George Washington was a pretty commonplace sort of fellow, February 23.

About March 4 a number of patriots will go to Washington in Pullman cars to confer their services on their country.

March 5 several statesmen will have heavy colds, the result of exposure to the gentle spring zephyrs of the District of Columbia.

March 27 a New York policeman will be accused of taking a bribe.

April 1 William J. Brennings will acknowledge that he invented virtue. Mayor Gaynor will write a letter full of Christian charity about Dr. Parkhurst.

Colonel Roosevelt will decline a third cup of coffee, May 25.

William Howard Taft will play golf, June 2.

June 26 a noted civic reformer will be exposed in a compromising situation.

Six leaders of Tammany Hall will be accused of wife beating, extortion, murder and embezzlement, July 1.

July 4 safe and sound, July 4 of July, with antique document called Declaration of Independence read only before Madison Square.

July 5 hot weather may be expected about this season.

Committee of citizens will wait on District Attorney Whitman and ask him to run for Mayor, July 12.

Numerous citizens will wait on Charles F. Murphy and each ask, July 15, to be allowed to run for Mayor.

July 16 District Attorney Whitman will consider condition of private affairs and study attitude of Bull Moose.

James R. Nugent of Newark will not send Christmas card to President of United States, July 26.

August 2 Champ Clark of Missouri will say that William J. Brennings treated him shamefully at Baltimore. W. Wilson will wear benevolent smile.

August 23 a socialist orator will denounce the existing industrial system. Comptroller Prendergast will announce that he is not a candidate for office, September 3, inclusive.

Board of Aldermen will do something foolish, September 10.

High cost of living will make giant strides, September 27.

Pastor of a New York church will denounce the morals of city administration, September 28.

A number of eminent citizens of New York will be held up to public scorn, October 5.

A number of eminent citizens of New York will be held up to public scorn, October 6.

Gregg registration frauds will be discovered in New York and Philadelphia, October 21.

October 30 plot to colonize New York with thugs from Philadelphia and Philadelphia with thugs from New York will be revealed.

Thugs of New York and Philadelphia will hold mass meetings to declare for home rule, November 1.

Election day police will have exceptional easy day, as usual.

Everybody will give thanks because election is over, Thanksgiving Day.

December 1 everybody will begin preparation to rescue this State on election day, 1914.

December 25 all hands will forget the terrible crisis confronting State and have good time.

January 1, 1914, numerous forgotten bills will fall due.

AN OLD MANHATTAN DRIVER.

Bad Adventures of "The Knickerbocker Line Driver."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Here follow the verses of an old song that was sung in New York when the Bull's Head seemed to be further from the Battery than it now is:

He was a general favorite wherever he went, He never was known to knock down a cent. He swung a gallop whip, for he was bound to shine, As a high gallop driver on the Knickerbocker Line.

As he was driving down Broadway the other afternoon,

Just as he was passing a larger beer saloon He saw a handsome girl, the prettiest he had seen; She had just arrived that morning from the Jersey Quarantine.

"Where are you going, young woman?" he said, She gave him a look that nearly killed his deer. She handed up her handbox, then got up herself. She so surprised George Henry that he nearly lost his breath.

He thought he had met an actress of Southern Lucy Neal,

Like the gallant French captain and the maid of his umbrella.

When she said, "The sun is very hot, lend me half your umbrella."

My name is Mrs. Plimmeson I'm peddling sea-pertilla."

When George heard this news it couldn't have been his.

His mug it turned yellow, he rolled off the bus— They batted his head in vinegar to take away the scabs.

And now he is driving mules on the Second avenue cars.

LEWIS ISLAND, Conn., December 29.

A Brooklynite's Advice to a Chilly Manhattanite.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Being a pedestrian and follower of a nearby neighbor of his Honor our Mayor I was interested in reading a letter in THE SUN by "Silver" regarding house-warming and clearing sidewalks after A. M.

All "Silver" needs is some new life. No he had better move where he can see the sunshine and where the prospects are fine.

BROOKLYN, December 30.

"More Complete."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Noting the fact that number of your correspondents are agitating over the use of "more complete" in relating various ancient authorities as warrant for its continued use, I wish to inquire if we of to-day are to follow in the error footsteps of our ancestors, and also if a thousand or more wrong make one right? The ancients were no more infallible grammarians than the moderns, and the moderns have enough of their own errors to answer for without continuing the errors handed down to them. We must either change the definition of "complete" or discontinue the use of it as a comparable adjective. P. S.—Incidentally I may say that President Hadley of Yale has not been saying "more complete."

NEW YORK, December 30.

Regime.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: "Regime" popular in London, I read in to-day's SUN. Tant pis for the French say.

Now there is no doubt that the music is a strong inspirational influence to nobility of thought and character, but to what does "regime" inspire? NEW YORK, December 29.

The Chimes.

When sweet bells chime on New Year's eve The crowd makes exultation: So do our actions loudly draw The chimes of resolution.

JOHN STEPHENSON'S STAGES.

More Details of the Great Race of Drivers and Buses.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Speaking of John Stephenson as the principal builder of the old Broadway stages—and, by the way, we were not Anglicized enough in those days to call them "buses"—I remember his shop from which those paragon of the coach builder's art were turned out. It was, I think, in Twenty-seventh street, north side, between Madison and Fourth avenues, and according to my recollection the plant extended rearward to Twenty-eighth street.

Those old vehicles certainly possessed the quality of durability and their sturdiness, they had to for the usage they got was of the roughest. There were of course no smooth pavements then, and the stone paving blocks were small, rough topped cubes so laid on beds of common red gravel that a state of unevenness was bound to follow that would knock the spots out of anything but a well, a stage.

The drivers on the Fourth avenue line would take to the car tracks as soon as they turned into the avenue, and as the wheel gauge of their stages was about eight inches broader than the rail gauge there was worn a deep green pullul on the left rail and as straight in line as the rail itself. That testified to the impressive quality of Stephenson's productions.

The stage lines were not operated by companies at that period, the incorporated form of business enterprise being then of small extent. The Fifth avenue line, according to my recollection, was run by Murphy & Smith and the Madison avenue route was covered by a family concern by the name of Marshall. I don't recall clearly the name of the firm that operated the Fourth avenue line, but a vague impression rests with me that Fisk & Gould figured in the management. The drivers of the Madison avenue stages used to tell me, after the installation of the interior fare boxes, that the traveling public had a good time in riding off doubtful change by depositing it in the boxes, and that all those queer pieces would come back to the drivers in their pay envelopes, whether in a pass it along policy of the owners, or whether as a penalty for lack of vigilance on the drivers' part I cannot say. But I wonder what modern drivers' union would have done about it?

JOHN WORTLEY.

NEW YORK, December 30.

CONCERTGOERS AND ARTISTS.

New Year's Resolutions Proposed for the Benefit of Busy Men.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Together with other resolutions to be made with the coming new year it might be well for a part of the music going public to decide to regulate its applause while showing its appreciation. In these modern, over-filled days it is unjust to the concertgoer who has to wait a limited time to be seated, to force him to waste a precious amount of it in listening to senselessly prolonged hand clapping.

Enthusiasm can be just as honestly shown in two or perhaps three recalls to the artist, but three should be the limit. On the other hand the artist should be made to understand that "encores" between the numbers of the printed programme are out of place. If it is